

navigating.* coronavirus

Update:
Thursday, May 28, 2020

MESSAGE UPDATE

Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus



Key takeaways:

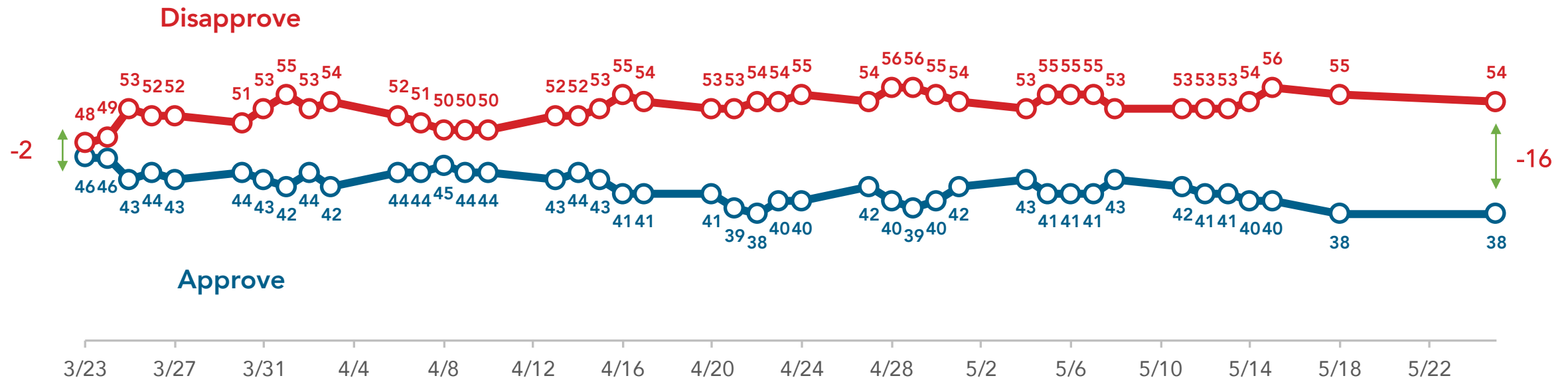
- Trump's approval rating on handling health care remains low as Democrats are more trusted on a variety of health metrics related to the pandemic.
- Americans have increasingly favorable views of the ACA and oppose the lawsuit to repeal it.
- Americans have very serious concerns about congressional Republicans and Trump failing to protect health care coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Trump's Approval on Health Care Remains Negative

Only 38% of Americans approve of how Trump is handling the issue of health care.

- There's now been a net decline of 14 points in Trump's handling since March 23rd (from -2 to -16).
- Among independents, only 25% approve of his handling of health care.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling the issue of health care?



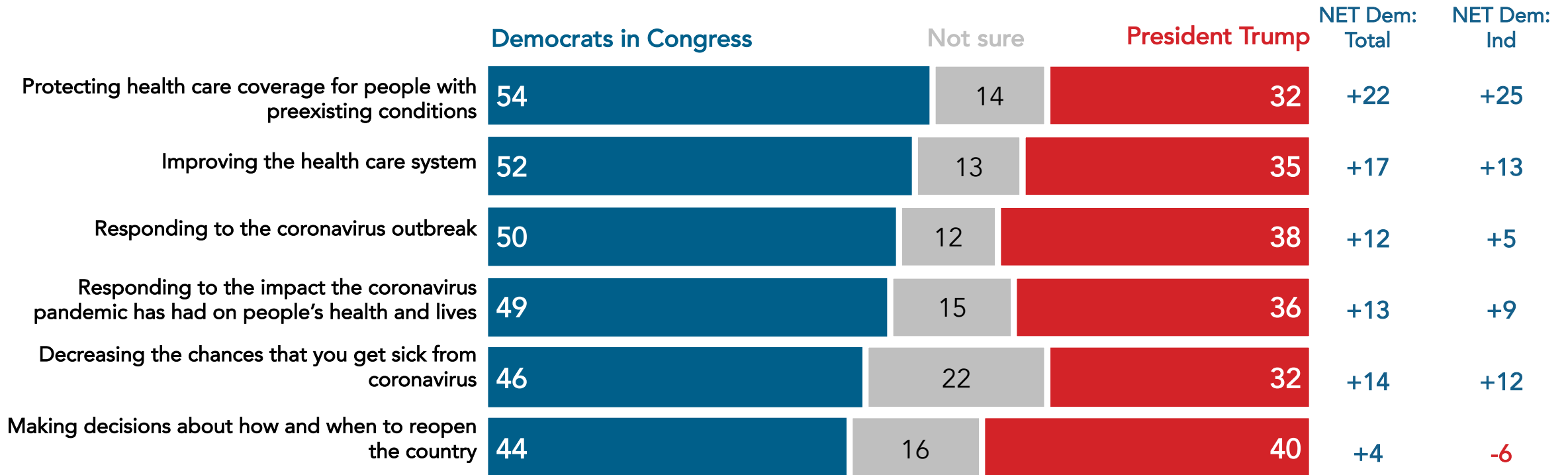
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org

House Democrats More Trusted on Pandemic Issues

Democrats in Congress are more trusted than Trump on a variety of health issues, especially protecting coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and improving the health care system.

- The advantage held by Democrats in Congress on responding to the coronavirus outbreak has increased a net 18 points since March 23 (+12, up from -6).

Please indicate who you would trust more to handle each one.



Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020.
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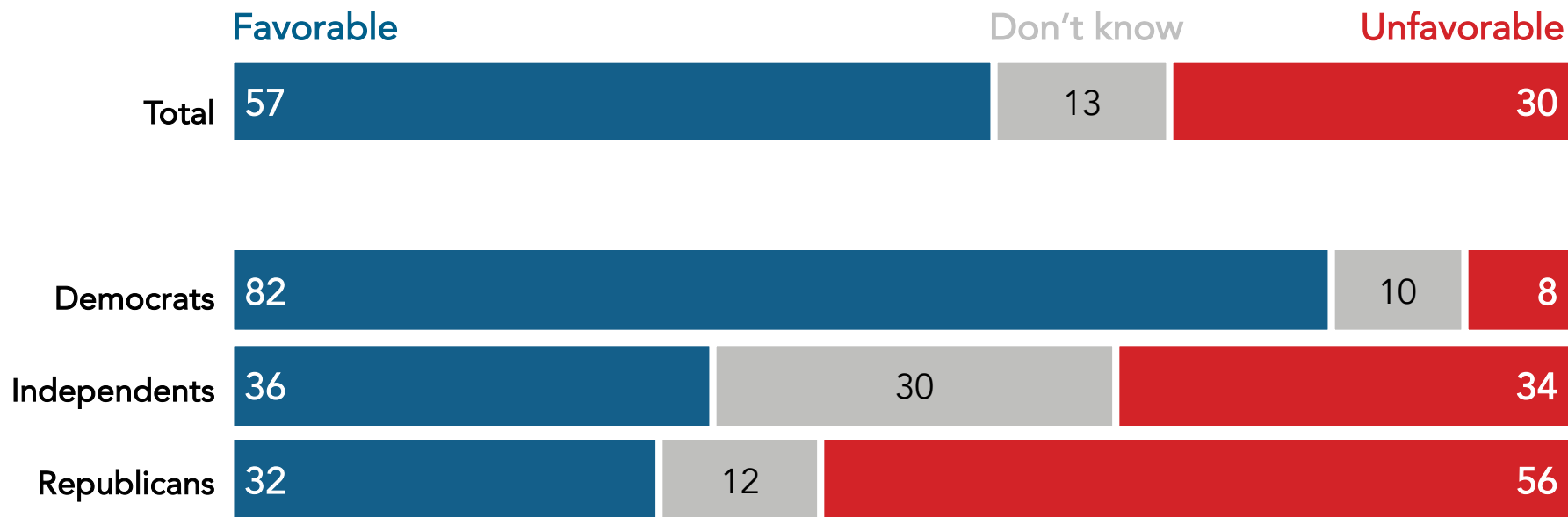
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Favorability of ACA Rises Even Higher

Nearly three in five Americans are favorable to the Affordable Care Act, up double digits from 46% in June 2019.

- Among Republicans, favorability of the ACA has increased 13 points since June 2019, from 19% to 32%.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to the Affordable Care Act.



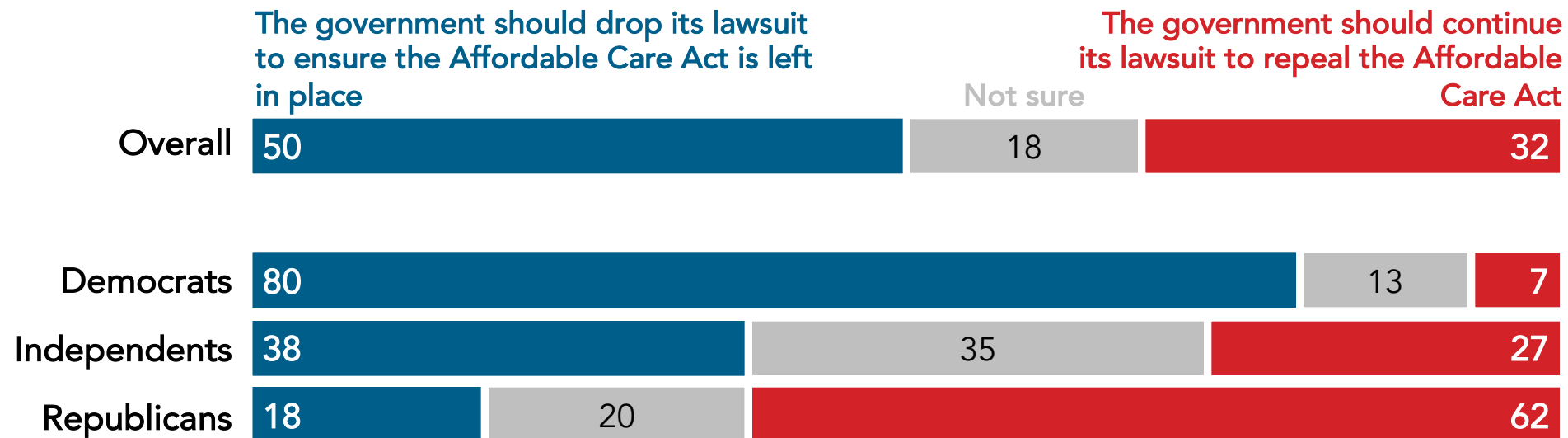
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Public Favors Dropping Lawsuit & Leaving ACA in Place

Only a third of Americans say the government should continue its lawsuit to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

- Independents (27%) are especially unlikely to say the government should continue its lawsuit to repeal the ACA.
- Even among Republicans, just 62% want the lawsuit aimed at repealing Obamacare to continue.

As you may know, the federal government is continuing to pursue a lawsuit that would repeal the Affordable Care Act, which is also sometimes known as Obamacare. What do you think should happen with this lawsuit?



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Top Health Care Worries In a Pandemic: Pre-existing Conditions, Lost Coverage, High Costs

When presented with a series of criticisms about Trump and congressional Republicans' approach to health care, denial of coverage to people with pre-existing conditions and taking away health care coverage for millions are top concerns.

Please indicate whether each raises concerns about the approach Trump and congressional Republicans are taking when it comes to health care.

	% Very Serious Concerns	
	Overall	Ind
They support letting insurance companies deny coverage to or charge more to people with pre-existing conditions	57	63
They support taking away health care coverage for millions of Americans, which during the pandemic, would increase the risk to you from other people getting sick because they can't get treatment	56	48
They have taken millions from big insurance and drug companies and support raising health insurance premiums by 10% and increasing drug costs	54	54
They support eliminating health care coverage options for people who lose their jobs, even as millions of Americans are becoming unemployed	53	47
They are trying to change the rules to let insurance companies stop covering the price of prescription drugs which could increase the prices for drugs needed in response to the coronavirus pandemic	52	50
They support allowing insurance companies to offer "junk" insurance plans that would allow them to charge higher prices for coronavirus treatment	50	49
They support plans that allow companies to choose not to use infection control specialists in nursing homes and reduce fines for nursing home abuse. One in three Americans infected with coronavirus is in a nursing home	50	48

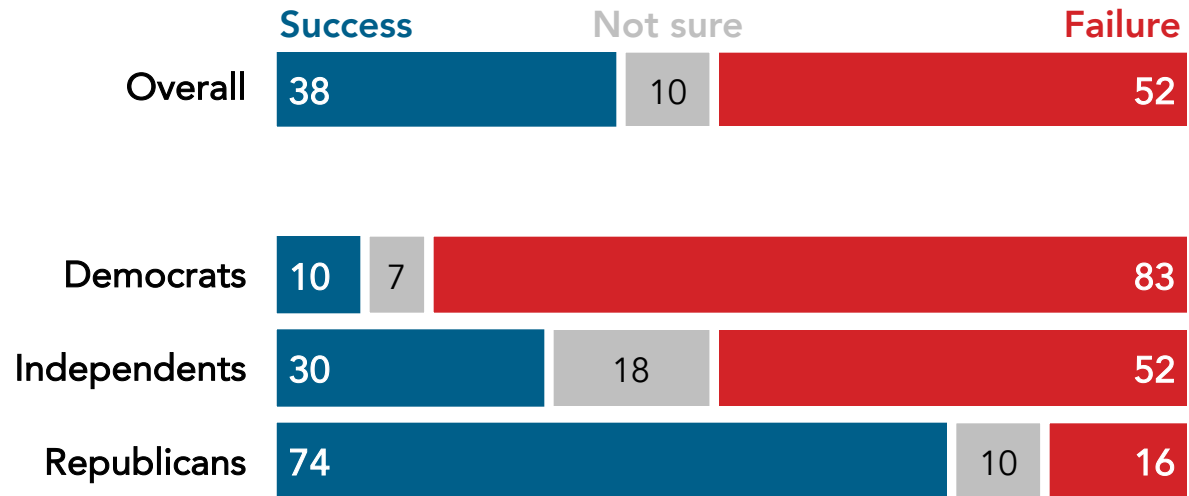
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Majorities Describe Trump Response as Failure & Say His Mistakes Worsened Crisis

More than half of Americans think that Trump's response has been a failure and that he made early mistakes that made things worse than they needed to be.

- More than a third (35%) describe Trump's response as a "big failure," while only 8% describe as a "big success."

Taken as a whole, from the early days until now, would you describe President Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic as a success or a failure?



And which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Any president, Trump or otherwise, would have dealt with the coronavirus outbreak in the same way and would have had the same outcome

President Trump made mistakes in his handling of the coronavirus outbreak that made things worse than they should have been



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Arbery Shooting Breaks Through Coronavirus Coverage

Despite heavy media coverage of the pandemic, other news such as the killing of Ahmaud Arbery broke through while manufactured controversies by Trump are gaining less traction, such as "Obamagate."

How much have you seen, read, or heard about the following items recently?

% Heard a lot

	A lot	Some	A little/Nothing	Dem	Ind	GOP
A Georgia man, Ahmaud Arbery, was shot and killed while jogging in his neighborhood	58	22	19	69	44	49
That Trump told reporters he was taking the drug hydroxychloroquine to prevent coronavirus	52	26	22	59	47	45
Dr. Anthony Fauci recently testified in front of the United States Senate and warned that opening the country too soon could lead to a second wave of the coronavirus across the country	37	37	26	47	22	28
Trump recently accused President Obama and his team of spying on his incoming national security advisor , Michael Flynn, at the end of their administration – something he calls "Obamagate"	34	28	38	39	14	34
Donald Trump is threatening to withhold federal election funding for Michigan and other states that mail absentee ballot applications to registered voters	30	31	39	41	15	21
The U.S. House of Representatives passed a new economic relief bill , also known as the HEROES Act	27	32	40	31	15	25
Donald Trump recently removed the State Department Inspector General Steve Linick from office	22	29	48	29	10	18

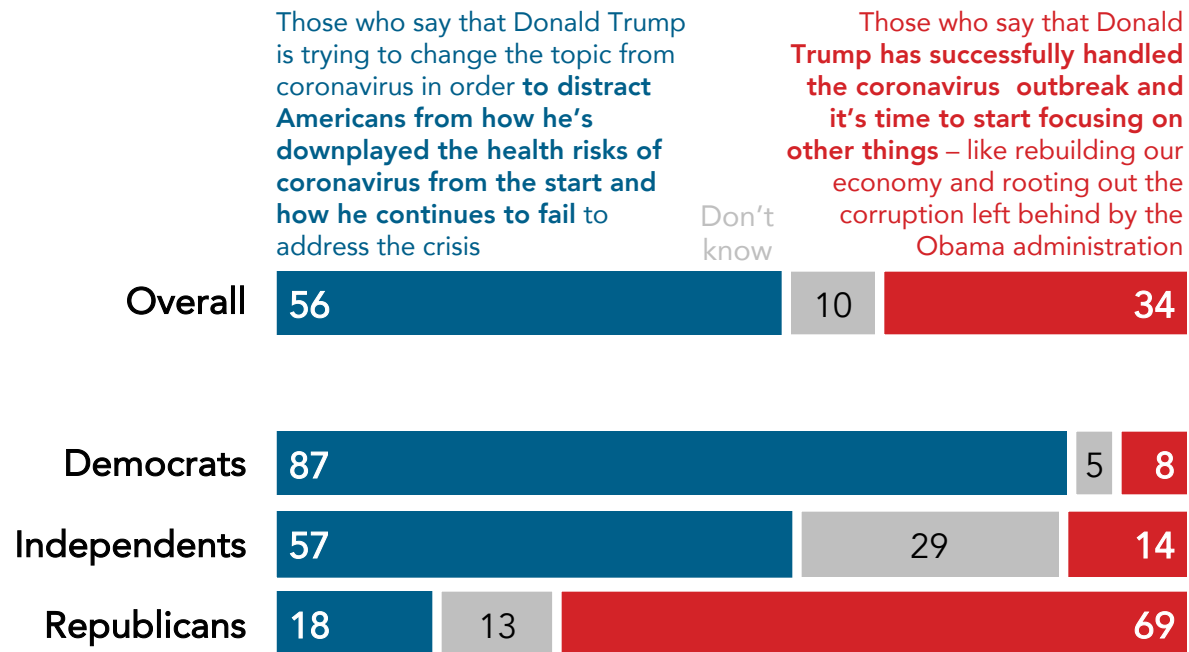
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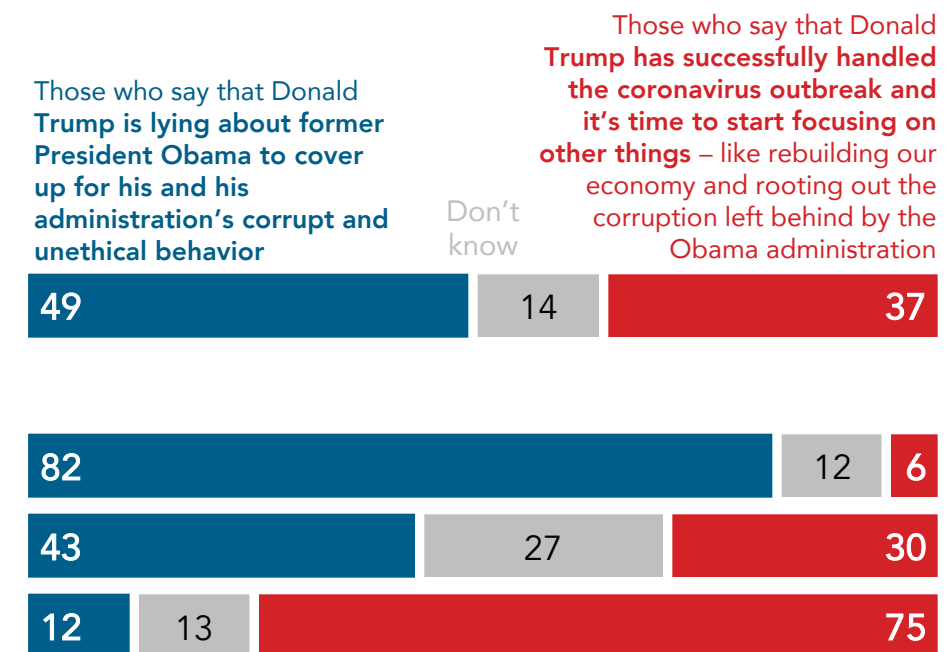
Most Think Trump Trying to Distract from Pandemic Missteps

In a split test, more than half of Americans feel that Trump is trying to change the topic from coronavirus due to his failure to address the crisis, while there is less of a clear advantage for an argument that Trump is lying about Obama to cover up his own corruption.

Who do you agree with more?



Who do you agree with more?



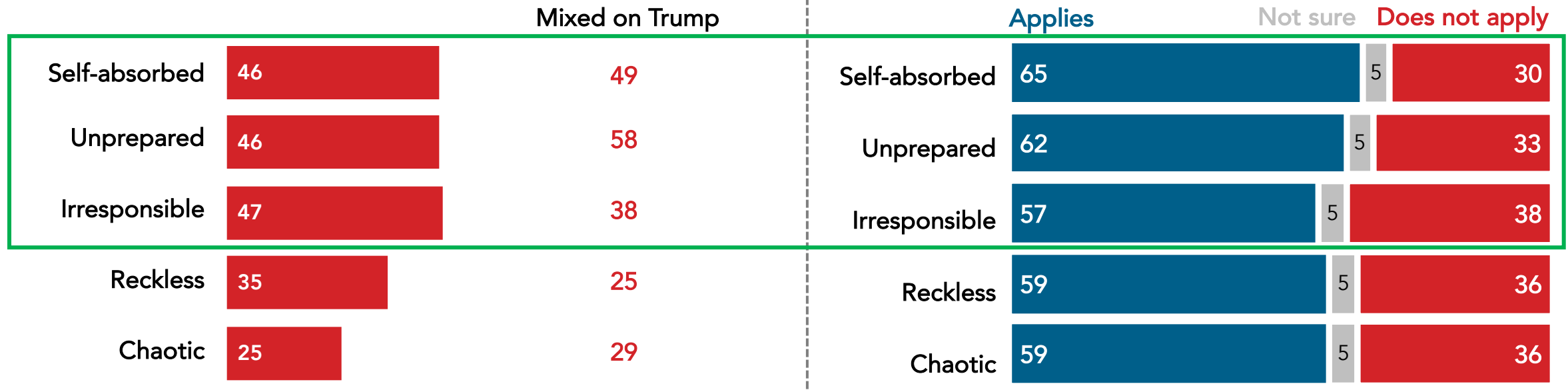
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Trump: Self-Absorbed, Unprepared, Irresponsible

The most concerning descriptors of Trump's response to the pandemic include "irresponsible," "self-absorbed," and "unprepared."

- Half of Americans (50%) say that "self-absorbed" applies to Trump's response "very well."
- Among those mixed on Trump*, 68% say "unprepared" applies to him, while 58% say it's most concerning.

[Among those who said a negative description applies to Trump's response] Which concerns you most about Trump's response to the pandemic?

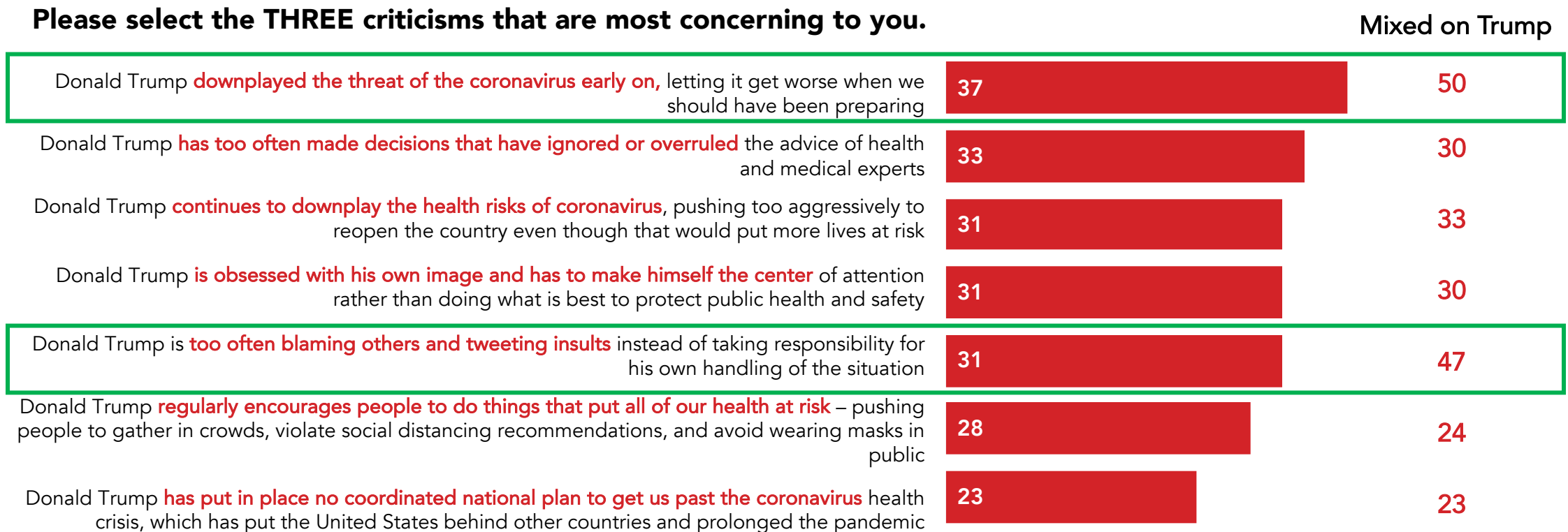


*"Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans who don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org

Early Downplaying, Blaming Others Remain Top Concerns

Americans find Trump's early downplaying of the crisis, along with ignoring experts, to be top concerns.

- Among those mixed on Trump*, top concerns include his downplaying (50%), blaming others and failing to take responsibility (47%).



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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Andrea Purse, progressive strategist; Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Delvone Michael, Working Families; Felicia Wong, Roosevelt Institute; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,012 registered voters conducted May 21-May 25, 2020. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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